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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 863,485	05 23 2001	Craig L. Johnson	16635-104	9336

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EXAMINER

KIM, SUN U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/863,485

Applicant(s)

Johnson

Examiner

John Kim

Art Unit

1723



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 26, 2002

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 10-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s).

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s).

6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1723

1. Claims 10-14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 5.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,695,489 (hereinafter referred to as Japuntich). Japuntich teaches a flexible blood bag (12) comprising a top port (14) and a bottom port (16) and an integral coarse filter comprising a tube of plastic mesh (62) extending from the top port into the bag (12) (see figures 1-2, 7; col. 3, line 46 - col. 7, line 25).

Art Unit: 1723

5. Claims 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,443,220 (hereinafter referred to as Hauer et al). Hauer et al teach a pliable blood bag (14) comprising a top port (28) and a bottom port (26) and a tube (32) extending into the bag from the top port (28) to remove air (see figure 2; col. 2, line 25 - col. 4, line 15).

6. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japuntich in view of Hauer et al. Japuntich teaches a flexible blood bag including an integral coarse filter comprising a tube of plastic mesh as described in above paragraph 4. Claims 8-9 essentially differ from the blood bag of Japuntich in reciting a bubble trap at the top comprising plastic tubing extending from the top port into the bag inside the mesh tube. Hauer et al teach a pliable blood bag (14) comprising a top port (28) and a tube (32) extending from the top port (28) into the bag inside a screen filter (38) to remove air (see figure 2; col. 2, line 25 - col. 4, line 15). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the blood bag of Japuntich to incorporate a tube extending from the top port into the bag of Japuntich inside a mesh filter to remove air as suggested by Hauer et al.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 5,628,726 and 4,850,964 and 5,055,198 teach blood containers with mesh filters.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Kim whose telephone number is (703) 308-2350. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 7:00 AM - 3 00 PM.

Art Unit: 1723

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker, can be reached on (703) 308-0457. The fax phone number for official response after final action is (703) 872-9311, and the fax phone number for all other official faxes is (703) 872-9310.

When sending a draft amendment by fax, please mark the paper as "DRAFT"; otherwise, mark the paper "OFFICIAL". This will expedite the processing of the paper.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.


John Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

J. Kim
July 9, 2002